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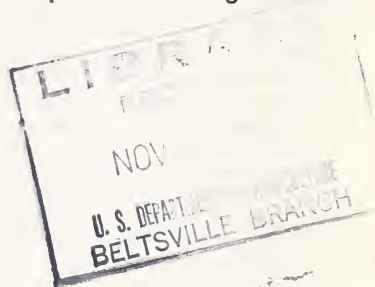


# Agricultural Situation

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## A LOOK AT THE 1963 BALANCE SHEET OF AGRICULTURE

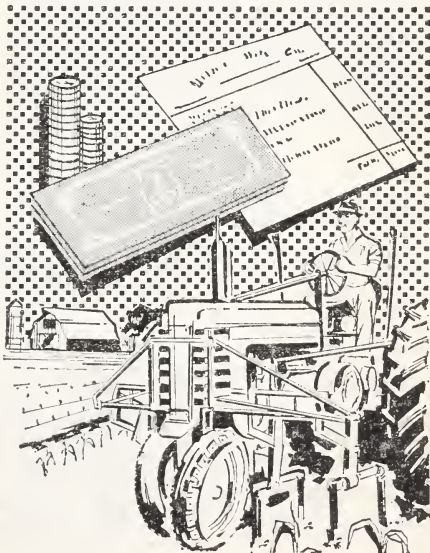
Like any business, U.S. agriculture has assets, debts, and equities. As is the case for business generally, the figures in agriculture's ledger are getting bigger year by year.

This was shown in the Balance Sheet of Agriculture, 1963, recently released by the Economic Research Service. On January 1, 1963, for the 9th year in a row, farm assets and debts were larger than they were a year earlier. The assets were valued at \$216.5 billion, up \$8.5 billion from early 1962. As in the past, rising real estate values were the primary cause, but other assets also were up.

Larger numbers of cattle and hogs and a higher price per head for cattle boosted the value of livestock on farms during the previous year. Cattle numbers reached a record 103.5 million head on January 1, 1963, despite the continuing decline in the number of milk cows.

The value of harvested crops owned by farm operators increased in 1962 as a result of larger production of feed grains, cotton, hay and forage crops, and higher prices of some crops.

Farmer-owned stocks of feed grains rose slightly despite an overall decline in 1962, principally in stocks owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation.



Also, during the year prior to January 1, 1963, the value of motor vehicles and machinery on farms was on the increase. Purchases exceeded depreciation. Prices of used machinery increased slightly.

A higher rate paid on farmers' savings accounts probably was responsible for a small rise indicated on January 1 in their liquid financial assets.

Increases also occurred in the debt column of the ledger of agriculture. Farm debts stood at \$30.2 billion, up sharply from \$27.4 billion of a year earlier. Farm debt rose more last year than it had in a long time. Underlying the substantial increases in both farm mortgage and non-real-estate debt was the trend of farm consolidation, as well as increased need for capital by farmers and the rise in farm real estate values.

But also, in 1962 lenders had more funds available for mortgage loans as a result of the rapid growth of liquid savings. Farmers may have been encouraged to use more credit by the continuation of the 1961 improvement in farm income.

Despite the increase in farm debt, equities in farm assets were on the rise to \$186.3 billion on January 1 from \$180.6 a year earlier.

In 1962, realized net farm income totaled \$12.6 billion, \$100 million more than the 1961 tally. Although gross farm income was up by about \$1.6 billion in 1962, higher production costs and increased inventories held realized net income in check. A slight increase occurred in the income of farm families

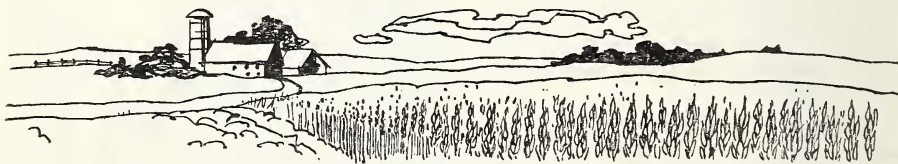
from off-farm sources. These sources now account for about one-third of the personal income of the farm population.

The ledger reveals that 1962 was the ninth consecutive year in which farm assets and debts rose. During the nine-year period between January 1, 1954 and January 1, 1963 the value of farm assets increased \$57.3 billion or about 36 percent, while farm debt rose \$13 billion or about 76 percent, and farm equities were up \$44.3 billion or 31 percent. Realized net farm income increased only 3 percent between 1954 and 1962. In relation to farm expenditures, the liquid assets of farmers are now much lower than they were in 1954, a factor contributing strongly to the increased use of credit on the farm.

Recent studies show that debts of farm operators vary much in accordance with the size of their farm enterprise. A relatively small number of farmers have debts amounting to as much as 50 percent of the value of their land and buildings.

The per farm value of assets used in farm production at the beginning of 1963 averaged \$51,000, and about \$25,000 per farmworker. These values (per farm and per farmworker) have almost doubled since 1955 and tripled since 1950.

A free copy of "The Balance Sheet of Agriculture, 1963" Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 281, can be obtained by writing to: *Editor, Agricultural Situation, OMS, Division of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250.*



**The Agricultural Situation is sent free to crop, livestock, and price reporters in connection with their reporting work.**

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# PROCESSED VEGETABLE SUPPLIES EXPECTED TO BE LARGE INTO MID-1964

Total supplies of *processed vegetables* are expected to be large into mid-1964. Canned vegetable supplies appear to be slightly smaller than the record high last season, but above the recent 5-year average. Packs of most major canned vegetables were materially smaller than last year, but larger carryovers were nearly offsetting.

Among major canned vegetables, supplies of *snap beans*, *sweet corn*, and most *tomato products* are expected to be close to the record levels of last season. But supplies of *tomatoes*, *kraut*, and *spinach* probably are somewhat smaller than a year earlier. Overall f.o.b. and retail prices for canned vegetables are expected to average a little above the bargain levels of last season.

Total supplies of *frozen vegetables* during the 1963-64 season probably are nearly the same as last season. Packs of most items were moderately smaller than in 1962, but carryover stocks were much larger. While prices for a few frozen items may rise slightly, the abundance of frozen vegetables, as well as continued intense competition from plentiful canned supplies, probably will preclude any significant price improvement. Both f.o.b. and retail prices likely will average close to year-earlier levels.

*Potato supplies* for fall and winter markets are a little larger than a year ago and, once again, in excess of market requirements. Production of the important fall crop is 194 million hundredweight, 2 percent larger than in 1962 and nearly a tenth above the 1957-61 average. The 9 Western States accounted for the increase. Although acreage in nearly every Western State was smaller than in 1962, an extended growing season resulted in a record yield, and output was 8 percent larger. Expected production is virtually the same as last year in the 9 Central States and down 5 percent in the 8 Eastern States. With overall supplies larger than a year earlier, prices this fall and winter are expected to average close to the low levels of a year earlier.

Fewer *sweetpotatoes* are available this season compared with last. Production is estimated at 17 million hundredweight, 11 percent smaller than in 1962 but about the same as the 1957-61 average. Larger crops than a year ago are reported in Louisiana, California, Mississippi, and New Mexico. But less output is expected in all other major producing States. With total supplies materially smaller than a year ago, prices to growers for the season are expected to average at least moderately higher than those of last season.

Total supplies of *dry edible beans* for 1963-64 are expected to be slightly to moderately larger than in the 1962-63 season. Beginning stocks were substantially smaller than a year earlier, but production was up materially. Supplies of *colored beans* appear to be about the same as a year ago, but supplies of *white beans* probably are materially larger. Among the important classes, supplies of *pea beans* and *Great Northerns* are materially larger than last season. *Pinto bean supplies* are about equal those of a year ago, but supplies of *red kidney beans* are substantially smaller than in the 1962-63 season.

*Export demand* for dry edible beans is expected to be stronger this season compared with last. Below normal dry bean production for the 1963 season is again reported in the major European bean producing countries because of adverse weather. Expected heavy export shipments should about offset any pressure on markets that might have been caused by the 1963 increase in production. Prices to growers for the season are expected to average about the same as last season.

Donald Kuryloski  
*Economic Research Service*

## The Farmer's Share

In August the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 36 cents, 1 cent less than in July and 3 cents less than it was a year earlier.

# UTILIZATION OF HATCHERIES IMPROVES

In keeping with other agricultural trends, hatcheries too, are becoming larger and fewer. At the beginning of the year there were 3,462 chick and poult hatcheries in the United States compared with 8,233 a decade earlier.

Hatcheries during this 10-year period have more than doubled in size when measured by the number of eggs their incubators can hold. However, the increase in the average size of hatcheries has not fully offset the decline in numbers. As a result, the productive capacity of the Nation's hatcheries has shrunk. On January 1, 1963, U.S. incubators could hold 549 million eggs, 11 percent less than at the start of 1953.

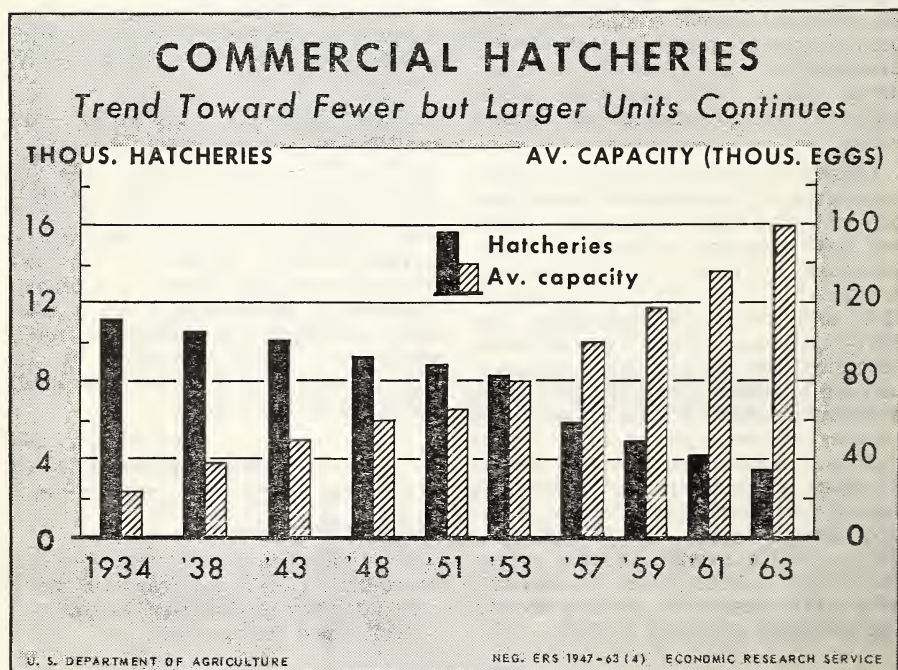
The reduction in hatchery capacity has occurred despite increases in production of 135 percent for broilers, 48 percent for turkeys, and 9 percent for eggs. The extra chicks and poult needed for the expanded poultry output has come mostly from a fuller use of the reduced capacity and to some extent from improved hatchability. Between 1953 and 1962 the annual output of chick hatcheries rose from 3.2 to 5.5

chicks per unit of rated capacity. For poult hatcheries the ratio increased from 1.2 to 1.8.

Two interrelated developments explain the improvement in the utilization of hatcheries. One is the shift to a more even year-around hatchery output. This has been more important for chicks than poults. The other is the change in the organization of the poultry industry.

Today, many more of the stages through which poultry and eggs pass on their way through the production and marketing process are under the direct control of individual firms. These more highly integrated firms have both the incentive and the ability to bring hatchery capacity into better balance with other production and marketing facilities. That a better balance is being achieved is indicated by the elimination of most of the unused hatchery capacity during the spring when the demand for chicks and poults is greatest.

Herman Bluestone  
*Economic Research Service*





# UNITED STATES MAY BENEFIT THROUGH BETTER WHEAT EXPORTS

Wheat—long a knotty marketing problem not only in the United States but throughout the world—is proving a hot item in world trade this marketing year. Also, the United States could find itself the one Nation with a large and readily available wheat supply.

The three other top wheat exporters—Argentina, Australia, and Canada—now have limited potential for further large exports this year.

Argentina's 1962 crop was poor, and stocks on July 1 were the smallest in recent years. The current crop looks promising with an acreage 14 percent above last season's, but no large export surplus seems in prospect.

Australia had a record crop in 1962, but heavy sales to Communist China plus normal exports are expected to cut its stocks to a minimum by December 1, when the new marketing season starts. The wheat recently purchased by the USSR will all come from the crop about to be harvested. Though this crop is expected to be good, it will probably not allow for much expansion in exports.

Canada's excellent wheat crop is pushing supplies to a record high, and considerably more wheat is available for export; but the shipments already scheduled for the Soviet Union and other customers will use railroad and port facilities to the limit.

When the 1963-64 marketing year began on July 1, the U.S. had a total supply of 2.3 billion bushels. Of this, about 600 million bushels will be used domestically. This leaves 1.7 billion bushels of wheat for export and carryover in a year when world trade is expected to exceed 1.7 billion bushels (the record traded throughout the world in 1961).

The Soviet Union has had another small wheat crop, causing her to shift from an exporter of this commodity to a major purchaser. After first taking

large quantities of wheat from both Canada and Australia, she showed interest in purchasing wheat from the United States.

On October 9, the President stated the conditions under which the United States would sell wheat to the Soviet Union and Eastern European Bloc countries. These include:

- Sales are for gold, dollars, or convertible currencies.
- The wheat is for use in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe only.
- Shipments are made in U.S. ships when possible.

Although total wheat output in Asia is at an alltime high, the two big importers—Japan and Communist China—still need wheat.

A victim of bad weather, Japan needs 20 percent more this marketing year than last. In August the Red Chinese signed a second 3-year agreement with Canada, covering 112-187 million bushels of wheat. She is still receiving wheat under a contract with Australia.

Its production stymied by wet weather, Western Europe, too, is turning to the United States for wheat they might otherwise produce themselves. Their total crop this year may drop 300 million bushels below last year's record. As a result, many European countries are buying soft red wheat from us.

France, normally a sizable supplier of wheat to other West European countries has recently imported bread grain for milling, in addition to its usual imports of durum. Syria's crop is half of last year's and its export prospects are small. Spain will slip back to import status, and so will Italy. Sweden, in some years an exporter, needs wheat this year.

William Askew  
*Economic Research Service*

# A RECORD SUPPLY OF HIDES

Total cattle slaughter in 1963 is expected to result in a production of 28,300 hides—the largest supply ever recorded. On the demand side leather production has been declining as a result of competition from synthetic materials, sneakers, open types of shoes, and shoe imports. Leather shoe production, which consumes about 85 percent of the domestic leather supply, is down to about 297 million pair for the first half of the year compared with 321 million pair for the corresponding period in 1962.

Because of the increased hide production and decreased leather shoe production, hide prices have declined 20-

30 percent since 1962. Heavy native steer hides (Chicago basis) have fallen 4-5 cents a pound from the 1962 average of 15.3 cents a pound.

In recent years the United States has exported about 25-30 percent of our total hide supply. The value of these exports is about \$85 million annually. The bright spot in the hide situation this year has been an increase in hide exports of about 6 percent. Cattle hide exports for the first half of 1963 were 3.5 million pieces and may reach 7.3 million for the year.

John Thompson

*Economic Research Service*

## USDA PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO FARMERS:



*Questions and Answers on the Packers and Stockyards Act for Livestock Producers; AMS Pamphlet 348.*

The Packers and Stockyards Act . . . What is it? What are its provisions? How is it enforced?

This little publication answers these questions briefly in an easy-to-understand way. Additional sources of information on the act are listed at the end to take care of any of the reader's unanswered questions.

*Salvaging Tomatoes from Frozen Vines; Marketing Research Report No. 423, 11 pages.*

"Salvaging Tomatoes from Frozen Vines" discusses the problem at hand and the recommended procedure the grower should follow in salvaging his tomatoes.

The reader may also be interested in the sections on the experiences of other growers confronted with this problem—symptoms of freezing injury, visible and obscured, with illustrations—ripening tomatoes from frozen vines.

*Processing and Marketing Farm Poultry; Marketing Bulletin No. 7, 33 pages.*

This bulletin describes the principal considerations, practices, and facilities involved in the marketing of wholesome poultry. It is primarily intended to aid the producer who also processes and markets his poultry.

This information should help the producer-processor to comply with the sanitary standards required of plants, operating under the Poultry Products Inspection Act. Suggested plans for farm plants and other illustrations are included.

You may obtain a free copy of these publications by writing to: *Editor, Agricultural Situation, OMS, Division of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250.*



# PROCESSORS USE BULK OF 1962-63 CITRUS CROP



Processors used 63 percent of the 1962-63 citrus crop compared with 64 percent of the previous season's crop. About 71 percent of the oranges, 52 percent of the grapefruit, and 27 percent of the lemons were processed compared with 72 percent of the oranges, 45 percent of the grapefruit, and 46 percent of the lemons during the 1961-62 season. Approximately 63 percent of Florida's oranges were used for frozen concentrates—down slightly from the 65 percent used the year before.

Florida produced 4.7 million tons of citrus from the 1962-63 crop or 72 percent of the U.S. total production compared with 6.7 million tons the previous year or 73 percent of the total crop.

The U.S. orange crop of 105 million boxes was 24 percent smaller than the 1961-62 crop. Florida orange production was 74.5 million boxes, down 34 percent from the previous season and accounted for 71 percent of the U.S. total crop. Production of oranges in

California was 29 million boxes, up 40 percent from the 1961-62 crop.

U.S. production of grapefruit during the 1962-63 season was 34.6 million boxes, 19 percent less than the previous season. Florida produced 30 million boxes or 87 percent of the U.S. total.

Total citrus production in the United States from the 1962-63 crop was 6.5 million tons, down 25 percent from the record high of the previous season and 4 percent less than the output in Florida alone during the 1961-62 season. A severe freeze in Florida on December 13, 1962, was the major cause of the sharp reduction, although some freeze damage occurred in all citrus States during the winter months. Production in Texas and Louisiana was negligible as the result of the January 9-12, 1962, freeze that destroyed most of the citrus bearing surface in those two States. Value of U.S. production for the 1962-63 crop was \$422 million, down 10 percent from the 1961-62 crop.

James R. Standley  
*Statistical Reporting Service*

# outlook



## OILSEED CROPS

October crop production estimates suggest a banner year for major oilseed crops. Soybean output will reach a record 727 million bushels, 8 percent over 1962 and 28 percent above 1957-61. Cottonseed output, at 6.2 million tons, is just short of the 1953 record, a bit higher than a year ago, and 13 percent over the 1957-61 average. The 1963 flaxseed crop is estimated to be 31 million bushels, 3 percent under last year but 14 percent over average. Peanut output will be the highest since 1950. Yields will be 1,387 pounds per acre.

## WHEAT

Wheat and flour exports may reach a record 1 billion bushels in 1963-64. The reasons—stimulated demand from Western Europe, and prospective U.S. sales to the Soviet Union and Eastern European Bloc countries. Wheat carryover next July may drop to 725 million bushels—465 million under last July and the smallest since 1953. Prices to U.S. farmers may average moderately above the \$1.82 national average loan rate this year, reflecting tightly held private supplies, and active demand.

## FEED GRAINS

October indicated feed grain supply is 215 million tons for 1963-64, equal to last year but over the 1957-61 average. The current crop of 152 million tons is 9 million over 1962 but carryover is down 9 million tons. Next year's use may exceed the 1963 crop by 3-4 million tons. The record crop brings the total corn supply to 5,305 million bushels, just

over that of a year earlier. Increased corn use could mean a carryover drop on October 1, 1964 but less than the big reduction of the last 2 years. More livestock is expected to strengthen feed grain demand in 1963-64. Prices may average near 1962-63 levels.



## COTTON

The current cotton crop is estimated to be 14.8 million bales, slightly below 1962, which was the largest crop since 1953. The acreage is 8 percent under 1962, but the record 500-pound-per-acre yields mean little change in production. The carryover next August, second only to the high in 1956, may exceed 12 million bales. Greater use this season will not help much. Both mill use and exports are up. Exports may go 1.6 million bales over a year earlier.

## LIVESTOCK

Larger fed-beef supplies at heavy weights may boost winter beef production and keep prices from advancing. Hog slaughter next January-June could average just under a year earlier with improved prices, especially in 1964's second quarter. Last June-August Corn Belt farrowings gained 2 percent, but a 3-percent dip is seen for September-November. Winter lamb slaughter and prices are likely to stay below a year earlier, because of strong competition from other meats.



## TURKEYS

Turkey production in 1963 will be about like it was in 1962. Supplies and per capita use are both down a bit. Farm prices may go a cent over last year's 21.6 cents per pound.

## MILK

Milk production in 1964 will be about the 125 billion pounds of 1963. Cow numbers are declining faster than in 1962 but production per cow is still going up. Next year's milk prices to farmers may be a bit higher than in 1963. The commercial use of milk and dairy products is up. Stepped-up exports reduce Government butter and nonfat carryover from record levels. USDA takings are down to about 8 billion pounds from the 10.6 billion of last year.

## BROILERS

The 1963 broiler output is 4 percent over last year's 6,919 million pounds. Current year prices may average 14.6 cents per pound, 0.6 cent under 1962. Per capita chicken consumption may hit a new high, 30.6 pounds.



## EGGS

Egg production in 1963 may surpass last year's 175 million cases. But per capita use is down—316 eggs this year, 324 in 1962, and 356 in 1957-59. Producers may get  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent more per dozen this year than the 33.7 cents they received in 1962.

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## 10 PERCENT MORE CATTLE ON FEED

On October 1, 1963, cattle feeders in 28 major feeding States had 10 percent more cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market than a year earlier. The number on feed was 6,739,000 head compared with 6,835,000 this July 1 and 6,143,000 on feed October 1, 1962.

The cattle on feed inventory had a high proportion of heavy cattle that have been on feed a comparatively long time. Cattle on feed weighing 700 pounds and over accounted for all the increase in numbers on feed from October 1 last year. There was a 1-percent decline in cattle on feed from July 1 to October 1 compared with a slight increase during this period in 1962.

The North Central Region showed a 9-percent increase in cattle on feed. All States in the region, except Illinois (unchanged) had more cattle on feed than on October 1 last year. Iowa, the leading State, was up 8 percent. The 11 Western States had 8 percent more on feed with all but 4 States showing increases. California was up 13 percent, Colorado was up 3 percent, but Arizona was down 2 percent.

The breakdown of the number on feed by weight groups showed the following changes in numbers on feed from October 1 last year: Under 500 pounds, down 2 percent; 500 to 699 pounds, down 3 percent; 700 to 899 pounds, up 7 percent; 900 to 1,099 pounds, up 24 percent; and 1,100 pounds and over, up 29 percent.

On October 1, cattle on feed less than 3 months were up 2 percent from October 1 last year, the number on feed 3-6 months was up 19 percent, and those on feed more than 6 months were 21 percent higher.

The number of cattle and calves placed on feed July-September was up 1 percent and marketings of fed cattle for slaughter were up 4 percent compared with a year earlier.

Cattle feeders expect to market 15 percent more fed cattle for slaughter during October-December this year than during this period in 1962.

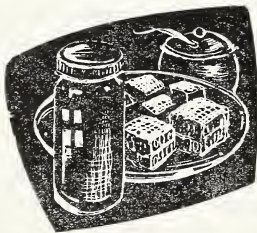
Dan L. Herbert  
*Statistical Reporting Service*



# WE HAVE A RECORD HONEY CROP



Linda Andrews of West Point, Mississippi, is American Honey Queen of 1963. She is chatting with Assistant Secretary of the Dept. of Agriculture, George L. Mehren.



The country's bees gathered a record crop of honey in 1963. The Crop Reporting Board estimates a crop of 291,429,000 pounds, 6 percent above the previous record in 1961 and 7 percent above last year. This year's production comes from 5,559,000 colonies of bees, 1 percent above last year and the most since 1950. Stocks of honey on hand for sale by producers on Septem-

ber 15 totaled 105,401,000 pounds compared with 103,808,000 a year earlier.

Plant and colony conditions at the beginning of the season indicated an average crop for the Nation. However, late-summer improvement of plant conditions in many of the Northern States permitted good late-summer flows. Yields in these States exceeded early expectations. Plant conditions became excellent in the Northwest and good in the North Central and North Atlantic States.

As the season progressed, conditions did not improve much in the southern regions. Dry weather caused lower yields in many of the South Atlantic and South Central States, particularly Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Louisiana. Southern California had one of its poorest seasons in recent years because of drought, however, conditions were good in northern California.

Production per colony is expected to average 52.4 pounds, 6 percent above last year and 5 percent more than the record high set in 1961. Yield per colony increased from 68.8 pounds last year to 86.1 in the West North Central; 56.2 to 65.1 in the East North Central; 42.6 to 49.5 in the North Atlantic; and 59.1 to 60.4 in the Western States. Yields dropped from 39.9 pounds last year to 33.3 in the South Atlantic and from 29.9 to 26.8 in the South Central States.

Yields averaged over 100 pounds per colony in North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. Last year North Dakota was the only State with a 100-pound average yield per colony. This year 14 States averaged 70 pounds or more per colony compared with 9 States in 1962.

The 10 leading States in 1963 (in order of production) were: California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida, Idaho, New York, Texas, Iowa, Ohio, and South Dakota. These States accounted for 58 percent of the Nation's crop.

David T. Mateyka  
*Statistical Reporting Service*

# SOYBEAN PRICES TO CONTINUE STRONG IN 1963-64

U.S. soybean production has increased precipitously from about 300 million bushels in the early 1950's to a record 727 million bushels in 1963, reflecting upturns in both acreage and yields per acre. Soybeans, now fourth among the leading cash crops behind cotton, wheat, and corn, respectively, is destined to become even more important in our agricultural economy. The demand for soybeans has kept pace with the sharp increases in production, and there never has been a serious surplus of soybeans in the United States.

The supply of soybeans during the 1963-64 marketing year (started October 1) is estimated at 742 million bushels, approximately the same as last year. Beginning stocks on October 1, 1963, were at the reduced level of 15 million bushels compared with 58 million the same date last year. The 1963 soybean crop was estimated, as of October 1, at 727 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year and 28 percent above the 1957-61 average. Soybean acreage for harvest was 29.1 million, 4 percent more than in 1962, and yield expectations, at 25.0 bushels, are 0.8 bushels above last year.

Prices to soybean growers in October 1963, the first month of the 1963-64 marketing year, averaged about \$2.56 per bushel, 33 cents above last year and the 1963 support rate of \$2.25 per bushel. Soybean prices are expected to continue strong throughout the current marketing year as the outlook indicates that the entire 1963 crop will be required to meet prospective demand. The 1963-64 season average farm price is forecast at \$2.60 per bushel compared with \$2.34 in 1962-63.

Prices for 1963 crop soybeans are being supported at a national average farm level of \$2.25 per bushel, the same as the year before. Loans and purchase agreements are available through January 1964. Loans mature on July 31, 1964. CCC acquisition of 1963-crop soybeans under the price-support program probably will be small, if any.

Soybean crushings, based primarily on projected requirements for soybean meal, are forecast at 495 million bushels, only moderately above the 475 million bushels in 1962-63. A bean crush this size would produce 5,350 million pounds of crude soybean oil and 11.6 million tons of soybean meal.

Domestic use of soybean oil is forecast at 3.8 billion pounds and soybean oil exports around 1.4 billion pounds, both new record highs. Nevertheless, this would leave soybean oil carryover stocks on October 1, 1964, above the record high beginning stocks of 920 million pounds (crude and refined).

Domestic use of soybean meal in 1963-64 is expected to total about 10 million tons, 4 percent more than the 1962-63 record. The gain reflects a continuing high-feeding rate of protein per animal as well as a slight increase in livestock numbers. Soybean meal exports probably will slightly exceed the 1962-63 level of 1.5 million tons. Carryover stocks of soybean meal are usually relatively small, as meal does not store particularly well.

Soybean exports in 1963-64 are forecast at 190 million bushels, up about 10 million from a year ago. The demand for soybeans in western Europe and Japan is increasing because of the expanding livestock economy and increased feeding of soybean meal and other concentrates.

If seed and feed requirements are about the same as in recent years, and crushing and export estimates are reasonably accurate, carryover stocks of soybeans on October 1, 1964, will be at the very low level of about 10 million bushels.

George W. Kromer  
*Economic Research Service*





# AMERICAN METHODS AID NEPAL AGRICULTURE



Larry V. Wolfe, 25, of Garrison, Ky., is one of 5,000 Peace Corpsmen abroad. He is teaching horticulture to agricultural extension students in capital of Nepal.

(Editor's note: Peace Corps Volunteers Richard Nishihara, of Makawao, Hawaii, and David Sears, of West Plains, Mo., both are experienced agriculturists. Richard a graduate of Lahainaluna High School, has done a lot of work on poultry, dairy, and gardening, and has been a member of Future Farmers of America. David attended Southwest Missouri State College, where he majored in agriculture. Here are their comments on their part in establishing an agricultural station in Nepal.)

An agricultural station in Biratnagar, Nepal, is not like one you would find near Farmtown, U.S.A. About 14 months ago we began carving this station, known as Tarahara, out of the rich jungle soil.

The farmers here can get rid of the trees, but the stumps are a problem.

In the meantime the soil can be plowed. Tarahara Agricultural Station got its start "among the stumps."

The battle against the stumps is waged daily in the fields. Manpower, local tools, and one tractor are the only forces on our side, but each day a few of the stubborn ones are pulled out.

Clearing the land for farming is only the first step in the process of setting up Tarahara. The farm is set up to do research in many fields: Entomology, horticulture, agronomy, soils, plant protection, poultry, and even fisheries.

At present, only 40 acres of land are under cultivation. The main crops are corn, wheat, rice, jute, mustard, and sugar cane. The farm employees, technicians, and field workers all live in thatched huts now, but buildings for them are under construction.

One of us, Dave Sears, works and lives on the farm. He is working with the farm management in clearing the land and establishing the station. Eventually he will work in agricultural research.

Richard Nishihara works as a zonal extension officer and spends most of his time out in the fields and villages. He contacts village farmers and persuades them to practice agricultural techniques approved by the Nepal Department of Agriculture.

As a result of this progress, the future looks good here. Recently, 300 acres of jungle were bought to be cleared and added to the farm. It is only a matter of time until all the necessary land is completely cleared, adequate housing is available for the staff, and a laboratory set up.

The farm will be a bright light for the area's farmers who will benefit from the findings of the experimental work. All of them will reap the knowledge generated at Tarahara.

Richard Nishihara  
David Sears  
*The Peace Corps*





Leslie L. Gile, 21, of Rochester, New Hampshire, is an agricultural extension worker, one of 103 Peace Corpsmen serving in Nepal. Here he talks to farm family about chickens given them earlier.

## U.S. OVERSEAS FOOD PROGRAMS CREDITED WITH MAKING JAPAN LEADING BUYER OF MANY OF OUR EXPORTS

Japan's minister of agriculture, Munenori Akagi, said recently that overseas

food programs carried on by the United States have stabilized Japan socially and economically and made her the largest buyer of many American farm products.

Not only did the food, sent by the United States, reduce social unrest in Japan, he said, but it also brought about a revolution in eating habits for his countrymen. They now eat twice as much wheat, oil, and fats; four times as much meat; and drink three times as much milk as they did before World War II.

All Japanese schoolchildren—19 million of them—now have a school-lunch program.

Although technology has raised Japan's domestic farm production substantially in the last few years, Japan has purchased \$500 million worth of American farm products. It is today the largest cash buyer of American cotton, soybeans, hides and skins, tallow, nonfat dry milk, raisins, and currants.



# Meet the State Statistician . . .



"The creek bordering the rear of our Winter Park home is populated by alligators—one, an old bull 12 feet long," says Joe Mullin. "They are shy and not seen too often."

This is, of course, commonplace in Florida, but to a native Californian, recently appointed statistician-in-charge in the Sunshine State, it is out of the ordinary.

Joe Mullin has been the Florida State Statistician since May of last year. Before that he was assistant in charge of the California Crop Reporting Service . . . and before that (1953-58) a statistician in charge of various phases of the national vegetable statistics program in Washington, D.C. . . . but let's start at the beginning. . . .

His first recollection of crop forecasting dates back to his experience as a newsboy in the downtown area of Healdsburg, Calif. Joe's contacts with farmers, in town for business or pleasure, were frequent. The "Government's" prune crop forecast was discussed—or cussed, if it suggested enough tonnage to reduce price.

High school brought membership in the newly established Future Farmers of America, and courses in vocational

## JOE E. MULLIN

agriculture. At the University of California Mullin majored in agricultural economics—a subject broad enough not to limit his final selection of an agricultural career. He graduated in 1937, did some graduate study, and taught vocational agriculture for 3 years.

His career in crop reporting began in 1942, was interrupted while he served as an Air Force statistical control officer during World War II, and resumed again in 1946 in California. Mullin worked on vegetable statistics there before assignment to Washington in 1953.

On the personal side Joe Mullin married Mary Lou Griffing in 1941. They met at the University of California during a summer session. Their son, Bruce, is interested in law and enters college this fall. Kathy, their daughter, is a high school junior.

Here in Florida citrus is king. Oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, tangelos, and limes provide about 40 percent of the State's farm income and amount to three-fourths of the Nation's citrus. The Florida Crop Reporting Service, with industry support, has pioneered in developing representative sampling and objective count and measurement techniques that can be used in citrus forecasting.

Vegetables and melons account for one-fifth of the State's farm income. Florida can be proud of the highly comprehensive vegetable production statistics program. Livestock, poultry, and dairy account for about one-fourth of Florida's farm income.

Florida's agricultural industry, already quite commercialized, is becoming more so. Agribusiness promises to remain the backbone of the State's economy for many years. Florida's commercial enterprises recognize the importance of reliable agricultural statistics and assist our office in developing them—a fact which gives one Californian a lot of satisfaction indeed.



# TURKEY BREEDER HENS (1964 INTENTIONS)

The best indication of the prospective size of the 1964 turkey crop at this time is the report, showing October 1 intentions of breeder flock owners to keep breeder hens.

This report shows that flock owners in 15 of the most important States expect to retain about the same number of heavy-breed hens and 10 percent more light-breed hens at the beginning of the 1964 season than they retained a year earlier. These 15 States accounted for 80 percent of all breeder hens on hand January 1, 1963.

**HEAVY WHITE:** Compared with last season, turkey breeders plan to hold 3 percent more heavy white hens than last year. Four of the five most important States indicate increased holdings of hens. Increases indicated are 13 percent in Texas, 6 percent in Ohio, 5 percent in Minnesota, and 3 percent in Wisconsin. In California—no change from a year earlier.

**OTHER HEAVY BREEDS:** For other heavies, mostly bronze, breeders plan to have 3 percent fewer hens than in the 1963 season. Growers in four of the six most important States expect to decrease their holdings of hens. Decreases indicated are 13 percent in Oregon, 5 percent in Texas, 4 percent in California, and 2 percent in Iowa. These decreases were partially offset by increases of 15 percent in Missouri and 2 percent in Minnesota.

**LIGHTS:** Turkey breeders plan to hold 10 percent more light-breed hens than last year. The two most important States in the production of light breeds, Virginia and Minnesota, expect to increase holdings of light hens 20 and 16 percent, respectively.

These figures reflect breeders' plans as of October 1 to hold turkey hens for the coming year. The number of hens retained may vary from these intentions depending on breeders' reaction to this report as well as variations in economic conditions.

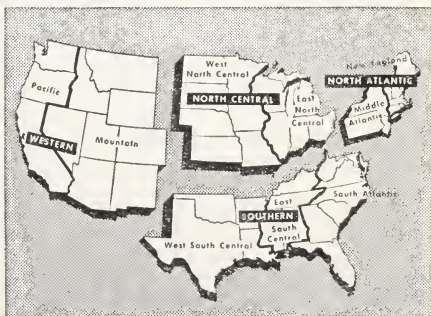
Alvin K. Potter  
*Statistical Reporting Service*

November 1963

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